

Message Text

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44

ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 EUR-25 ACDA-19 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 OIC-04 SCS-03

SCA-01 DPW-01 SAJ-01 SAB-01 DRC-01 /160 W

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P R 041049Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1396

AMEMBASSY BERN PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

INFO USUN NEW YORK 603

USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 1503

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS, VN

SUBJECT: PRG ACCESSION TO GENEVA CONVENTIONS AND FEBRUARY CONFERENCE
ON LAW OF WAR

REF: STATE 021561 (NOT SENT USDEL JEC)

1. ON FEBRUARY 4 WE TOOK UP CONTENTS OF REFTEL WITH MFA ASSISTANT FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS (KY) WHO SAID GVN WAS WELL AWARE OF PROBLEM. HE SAID GVN HAD PROTESTED TO BERN ACCEPTANCE OF "PRG" ACCESSION, BUT SWISS HAD RESPONDED THAT THEY TAKE NO POSITION ON THIS ISSUE, ACTING MERELY AS A "MAIL BOX" FOR OTHER PARTIES. KY EXPRESSED STRONG DESIRE TO CONSULT WITH US IN DEVELOPING STRATEGY TO PREVENT "PRG" PARTICIPATION IN UPCOMING CONFERENCE.

2. LATER SAME DAY WE DISCUSSED MATTER WITH WORKING-LEVEL MFA OFFICER WHO STATED FOREIGN MINISTER BAC PRESENTLY REVIEWING FORMAL GVN STATEMENT WHICH IT WILL ASK SWISS TO FORWARD TO PARTHIO TO CONVENTIONS AND UN MBYBERS. GVN STATEMENT MAKES POINT THAT "PRG" IS NEITHER STATE NOR POWER AND, HENCE, CANNOT
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LDSSUME OBLIGATIONS OF PARTY UNDER ARTICLES 59, 60, 139, AND

155 OF THE VARIOUS CONVENTIONS.

3. WE WERE ALSO INFORMED, IN CONFIDENCE, THAT GVN PERMREP GENEVA, AMBASSADOR LE VAN LOI, WILL LEAD GVN DELEGATION TO SUBJECT CONFERENCE. DEPUTY, AS AT TEHRAN RED CROSS CONFERENCE, WILL BE QUACH TONG DUC, DIRECTOR OF CABINET OF THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE.

4. REGARDING PARA 5 REFTEL, WE BELIEVE WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO FIGHT "PRG" ACCREDITATION AND NOTE THAT THE GVN PLANS TO DO SO. TO ACCEPT SEATING OF "PRG" WITHOUT CHALLENGE EVEN IN UNHUMANITARIAN CONFERENCE WOULD IN OUR OPINION SET A DANGEROUS PRECEDENT WHICH WOULD SERIOUSLY HANDICAP THE GVN IN FUTURE CONFERENCES AND IN OTHER CONTEXTS.

5. WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED ON TIMELY BASIS OF DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING CREDENTIALS SO THAT WE CAN COORDINATE EFFORTS CLOSELY WITH GVN.
MARTIN

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NNN

Message Attributes

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